(जिसमें रेशमी फैब्रिक शामिल है) की मात्रा निम्नलिखित अनुसार है:—

1992-93 1541.53 मिलियन वर्ग मीटर

ई ई सी, यू० एस० ए, बांगला देश, यू ए ई, आस्ट्रेलिया तथा कोरिया भारतीय कपड़े के कुछ प्रमुख आयातक हैं।

कपड़ा एक उपभोक्ता मद है इसलिए इसे आयात की निषिद्ध सूची में "प्रतिबंधित मदों" में शामिल किया गया है तथा इसीलिए लाइसेंस के बिना घरेलू खपत के लिए इसका आयात नहीं किया जा सकता है। तथापि, निर्यात प्रयोजनों के लिए परिधानों का उत्पादन करने के वास्ते कच्चे माल के रूप में इस्तेमाल करने के लिए कपड़े का अग्रिम लाइसेंस योजना के अंतर्गत आयात किया जा सकता है।

Increase in Cotton Prices

989. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cotton prices in the domestic market have spiralled recently despite a fairly good crop during the last harvest season coupled with substantial buffer stock;

(b) if so, what measures Government propose to take to ease the domestic cotton market situation; and

(c) whether it is a fact that any ad-hoc measure imposed to neutralise the price increase is likely to have an adverse effect on our contracted export policy and in particular on our contracted export commitments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) Yes Sir. The cotton prices in domestic market have recently displayed an upward trend.

(b) To ease the domestic cotton market situation Government have taken following measures:—

(i) To permit duty free import of cotton upto 5 lakh bales by spinning mills;

(ii) Stopping of unutilised export quota of cotton out of 5 lakh bales of cotton released for export during 1993-94;

(iii) Suspension of export on 9.2.94 in respect of the quantity of cotton already contracted for export but not yet shipped;

(iv) Reintroduction of Selective Credit Controls on cotton;

(v) Requesting the State Governments to take steps to check hoarding of cotton.

(c) Cotton exports have been suspended for time being. The cotton export policy has not been changed.

Implications of non-fulfilment of cotton export contractual objections

990. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD:
SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many Japanese and US importers dealing in cotton are considering to put India on black list for non-fulfilment of export contractual obligations as reported in the Economic Times dated 9th February, 1994;

(b) whether it is also a fact that they may stake a compensation claim for Rs. 40.00 crores on this account adversely affecting the working of the Cotton Corporation of India and the State Marketing Federations;

(c) whether it is a fact that the domestic cotton prices have been spiralling even with the freezing of cotton exports and the availability of 2 lakh bales of cotton added back to domestic consumption; and

(d) whether Government propose to take stock of the situation immediately before India credibility in the International cotton market erodes further?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (d) As a result of sudden spurt in the prices of cotton and cotton yarn leading to the stoppage of production of a large number of powerloom/handloom units in various regions of the country, the Government of India, on 18-1-94, stopped the export of the unutilised export quota of cotton. The Government again reviewed the situation in the light of the extreme hardship to handloom and powerloom weavers and on 9th February 1994 temporarily suspended export in respect of the quantity of cotton already contracted for export but not yet shipped. All these measures had a sobering effect, and the rising trend of cotton and cotton yarn prices has been largely arrested.

The Government, has received representations from the World Cotton Exporter's Association and other importers requesting for review of the suspension order. The Government is, however, for the present, keeping a close watch on the cotton situation.

Textile Research Association's Plan for modernisation of sick NTC Units

991. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Textiles Research Association has submitted a plan for modernisation of the National Textile Corporation's sick units;

(b) if so, what are the details of the plan; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (c) The Cotton Textile Research Associations have, on the advice of the Ministry of Textiles, prepared a scheme for the modernisation of 79 mills of NTC at an expenditure to Rs. 2005.67 crores. The scheme has been submitted to the Special Committee for consultation on NTC matters and would require approval of the Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction under the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985.

Duty Free Import of Cotton

992. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA
SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to permit duty-free import of cotton for handloom weavers;

(b) whether Government have directed the State Governments to take stern action against cotton hoarders;

(c) if so, whether the permission to import cotton will check the price rise of cotton; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) The Government has permitted duty free import of five lakh bales of cotton by the spinning mills.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) It is expected that with the import of cotton, pressure on domestic availability and prices of cotton will ease.

Procurement of Cotton

993. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government agencies withdraw from the market especially from Punjab market, so as to help textile industry to procure cotton of a lower price; and